

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 L-03 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 IO-10

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P 020838Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4366

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4320

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RO US

SUBJ: RABBI MILLER'S VISIT

REF: STATE 188397

1. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT RABBI MILLER'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE OFF EXTREMELY WELL. WHATEVER PRIOR PERSONAL TENSIONS AND AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT WHICH MAY HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN HIM AND RABBI ROSEN SEEM TO HAVE MELTED IN THE WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION RABBI ROSEN AND THE ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVE ACCORDED HIM AND HIS WIFE.

2. DICK VIETS AND I HAD A LENGTHY SESSION WITH THE MILLERS FRIDAY AFTERNOON DURING WHICH RABBI MILLER WAXED ELOQUENT ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL WISDOM, POLITICAL SAGACITY AND PROFOUND HUMANESS WHICH RABBI ROSEN REPRESENTS. HE IS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH RABBI ROSEN LEADS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY, AND HE IS QUICK TO ACKNOWLEDGE NOW THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY SEEN THE SITUATION THAT ONLY A MAN OF RABBI ROSEN'S EXCEPTIONAL DIMENSIONS COULD SUCCESSFULLY ORCHESTRATE SUCH A COMPLEX STATE OF AFFAIRS. HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN RABBI ROSEN LEAVES THE SCENE BUT SAID THAT THERE WAS NO

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REASON NOT TO SUPPORT HIS CURRENT EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE. DESPITE ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO RABBI MILLER ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THE BREATH OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY WHICH THE GOR PERMITS OR THE DEGREE OF SOCIAL WELFARE (ESSENTIALLY FINANCED FROM ABROAD) WHICH IS CARRIED OUT HERE BY RABBI ROSEN.

3. ON EMIGRATION HE IS CONVINCED (RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY) THAT IT WAS ONLY AFTER CEAUSESCU'S WASHINGTON MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS AND SEPARATELY WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT CEAUSESCU FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS NECESSARY BEFORE THE TRADE AGREEMENT WAS ASSURED PASSAGE. HE IS MUCH LESS CERTAIN NOW THAN BEFORE OF HOW MANY JEWS REALLY WANT TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL OR ELSEWHERE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. AND HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE SIZE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. ALTHOUGH HE IS IMPRESSED AND HEARTENED BY CURRENT EMIGRATION FIGURES, NONETHELESS HE IS PERSUADED THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO KEEP AT LEAST MODERATE PRESSURE ON THE ROMANIANS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE OUTFLOW. THE JACKSON-VANICK PERFORMANCE REVIEW NEXT SPRING IS VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND. HE THINKS ABOUT 3,000 EMIGRANTS PER ANNUM FOR THE NEXT 2-3 YEARS IS A REALISTIC FIGURE TO AIM FOR, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SAYS HE WANTS TO AVOID SETTING ANY "QUOTAS".

4. BECAUSE OF THE FACT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO EXPRESS THESE VIEWS DIRECTLY TO A SENIOR GOR OFFICIAL, I ARRANGED FOR HIM TO SEE DEP FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA ON SEPT 1. HE INFORMS US THE MEETING WENT VERY WELL. HE SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION GLIGA WAS "REACHING OUT" THROUGHOUT THEIR CONVERSATION. GLIGA ASSURED HIM THE GOR'S HUMANITARIAN POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ROMANIAN JEWS WOULD CONTINUE. RABBI MILLER SAID WHEN THE TALK VEERED TO EMIGRATION LEVELS HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS QUOTAS, OBSERVING TO GLIGA THAT QTE YOU AND I KNOW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE UNQTE. RABBI MILLER PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND ART HARTMAN SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN AND WILL PROVIDE A FULL REPORT ON HIS REACTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS FROM THE VISIT. FYI. HE LEFT US A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 130 FAMILIES DESIRING TO EMIGRATE EITHER TO U.S. OR ISRAEL. AFTER EMBASSY REVIEW WE INTEND

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TO SEND LIST TO GOR BY NOTE WITH BRIEF EXPLANATION OF ITS GENESIS. ALSO GIVING COPY OF LIST TO THOSE INTENDING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL TO ISRAELI EMBASSY. POUCHING COPY TO DEPT.

5. COMMENT: I THINK IT FAIR TO SAY RABBI MILLER RETURNS TO THE U.S. A MUCH HAPPIER AND RELAXED MAN ABOUT THE SITUATION HERE. HE AGREED WITH MY STRONG FEELING THAT WE SHOULD BOTH

AVOID A NUMBERS GAME AND YET KEEP THE PRESSURE ON IN A WAY  
TO HELP MAKE SURE THOSE WHO WANTED TO LEAVE HAD A CHANCE  
TO DO SO. UP TO A POINT THE FACTS CONCERNING ROMANIAN  
JEWS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, BUT IN NO WAY DOES THIS LESSEN  
THE EXTRAORDINARY ROLE RABBI ROSEN CONTINUES TO PLAY AS THE  
QTE FIDDLER ON THE HOT TIN ROOF UNQTE. I SINSE RABBI  
MILLER NOW UNDERSTANDS THIS.  
BARNES

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